

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A coated article comprising a substrate having [a] an exterior coating of a continuous, silicon oxynitride which coating is transparent, provides a substantially smooth surface is substantially uniform in thickness and is ^{directly} ~~substantially~~ permanently adhered to said substrate.

9. (Added) A coated article ^{comprising} ~~consisting essentially of~~ a ^{substrate} ~~surface~~ having an exterior coating of a continuous, silicon oxynitride which coating is transparent, provides a substantially smooth surface is substantially uniform in thickness and is ^{directly} ~~substantially~~ permanently adhered to said substrate.

10. (Added) A coated article comprising a substrate having an exterior coating exposed to environmental wear, said coating comprising of a continuous, silicon oxynitride which coating is transparent, provides a substantially smooth surface is substantially uniform in thickness and is ^{directly} ~~substantially~~ permanently adhered to said substrate.

11. (Added) A coated article ^{comprises} ~~consisting essentially of~~ a substrate having an exterior exposed to environmental wear, said coating of a continuous, silicon oxynitride which coating is transparent, provides a substantially smooth surface is substantially uniform in thickness and is ^{directly} ~~substantially~~ permanently adhered to said substrate.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.